DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 227 871 IR 050 192

TITLE Rare and Precious Books and Documents Section. Collections and Services Division. Papers.
INSTITUTION International Federation of Library Associations, The Hague (Netherlands).
PUB DATE Aug 82
NOTE 24p.; Papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (48th, Montreal, Canada, August 22-28, 1982).
PUB TYPE Viewpoints (120) -- Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Cooperative Planning; Foreign Countries; History; *International Organizations; International Programs; Library Associations; Library Collections; *Library Cooperation; *Museums; *Printing; *Union Catalogs
IDENTIFIERS Czechoslovakia; East Germany; *Incunabula; *Rare Books

ABSTRACT

Two papers on rare books and documents which were delivered at the 1982 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference are presented. In "Museums of the Book: Their Problems and Their Relations to Libraries," Jaroslav Vrchotka (Czechoslovakia) provides a discussion of museum activities, noting similarities and dissimilarities with library activities. Also given is the text of a resolution from the 1977 Conference on the Problems of Museums of the Book and their Role in the Modern World. The resolution recommends the establishment of a working group on international cooperation between libraries and museums of the book within the IFLA Section of Rare and Precious Books and Documents. The paper entitled "The Union Catalogue of Incunabula (GW) and Collections of Incunabula in Libraries Worldwide" by Ursula Altmann (German Democratic Republic) describes international cooperation in incunabula research and the activities of IFLA in promoting the compilation of the Union Catalogue of Incunabula, which is being published by the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek; it is currently available up to the first part of volume 9 covering "Gabelle to Gerp." (ESR)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED227871

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Rare and Precious Books and Documents Section

Collections and Services Division

Papers

IR050192

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Carol Henry

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IFLA Council 1982

Division: Collections and Services

Section: Rare and Precious Books and Documents

8|RARE|1-E
;34
RE

Museums of the Book

Their Problems and Their Relations to Libraries

by
PhDr. Jaroslav VRCHOTKA, CSc.
Director, National Museum Library
Prague, Czechoslovakia

IFLA 1982
Meeting
134

Jaroslav Vrchotka

8

MUSEUMS OF THE BOOK

Their Problems and Their Relation to Libraries

I would like to draw your attention to the problems of those institutions which are concerned with the history of the book, writing and writing materials in the widest historical, technical and artistic context. From these activities there arise tasks that are similar to or even identical with those of libraries, especially libraries involved with collecting and preserving rare and previous books.

I am speaking of museums of the book, which concern themselves systematically with books as museum objects. By this I mean the systematic documentation and presentation of the history of the book, the book-arts and the entire book-culture of past and present times. Although museums of the book as such first developed as late as the end of the 19th century (in most cases not till the beginning of the 20th century), they were based on older institutions whose functions they have in part taken over.

It is not necessary, I believe, to speak in detail about the history of museums of the book. We know in general terms from the history of the librarianship what an important role books played in ancient times, when books, archives and art-objects of arts were preserved all together. We know that in the Middle Ages books, mostly richly illuminated codices kept in the treasures of churches and monasteries, were valued on exactly the same footing as all the other liturgical art objects. From the Middle Ages up to modern times treasure rooms have contained rich collections of books. In libraries exhibitions of precious books (so called Zimelien) have played an important role and have still, today, a great importance in attracting visitors.

Some of the predecessors of museums of the book, however, have had higher and more ambitious aims. Nowadays, museums of the book vary from specialised, independent ones (for example the Gutenberg-Museum at Mainz which has been called, justly, the World-Museum of the Art of Printing) to small exhibitions of the history of the book in regional museums. It is not possible to enumerate all the categories of museums of the book. I shall simply mention some of the typical and most important ones. The oldest and one of the most successful is the Deutsches Buch-und Schriftmuseum (German Museum of the Book and Writing) that was founded in 1884 and since 1950 has been a department of the Deutsche Bucherei at Leipzig. As a result of its scholarly and educational activity this museum has provided a centre for schools concerned with the training of book-production specialists i.e. polygraphical, graphical and artistic schools of all kinds. Through its collections and exhibitions this museum has exercised great influence upon contemporary book-design and book-production that has such a great tradition and continuing reputation at Leipzig. There is the very well known Plantin-Moretus-Museum at Antwerp that has attracted many enthusiastic visitors by its effective preservation of the original printing-office. A very important museum of the book, of modern design and with interesting contents, is at Kiew in the USSR. It is located by the river Dnepr in the beautiful building that housed the printing-house belonging to the former cave-monastery of Kiew. In Czechoslovakia we have a museum of the book that deals with the history of librarianship in addition to the history of the book and writing. Because of its extent it is one of the greatest permanent exhibitions of its kind. One could continue to describe and enumerate other museums of the book, but I would prefer to deal now with the particular tasks which are common to all these institutions and which are important for my particular purpose in this paper.

Museums of the book have been well described by Professor Horst Kunze as

"show-cases of bibliography (Buchkunde)" they present the results of the latest bibliographical research into the history of the book and writing to the widest circle of visitors. Nevertheless, this is only the end-product of the activity of a museum of the book. It presupposes systematic documentation and working-up of evidence relating to the history of the book and the book-culture of the past and present. Bibliography should not be an end in itself, as is sometimes the case with other disciplines. By its results gained through research it should influence contemporary book-production and in addition influence future developments.

Museums of the book, therefore, should not direct their activity only towards the past, but should become living institutions that serve the present and also the future. They should actualize the results of bibliographical research, set current objectives, speak to modern people. They should serve education, teach what an important factor the book has been in the history of the society and progress, how much it has influenced the development of society and education.

Museums of the book have to be active in the aesthetic education of modern man in the technological age. By presenting examples and explaining the artistic qualities of rare and precious books of past and present times, museums of the book can influence substantially the aesthetic sensibilities of modern people who are so dangerously subjected to a consumer society. The fine art of the book and its effective presentation may play an important role here as a counter-weight to these negative appearances.

Modern museum techniques derived from sociologically based educational and extension-service activity are essential for museums of the book. They have to be used in all forms of book-museum work. Exhibitions have to be designed artistically in order to be attractive and to meet the expectations of the serious visitor. In these areas of museum activity much remains to

be done and close cooperation with other museums and between museums of the book is necessary.

Museums of the book have many points of contact and problems in common with libraries, principally with those preserving historical, rare and precious books. On this topic there are a number of theoretical papers that have to a considerable degree clarified the relations between museums of the book and libraries and that have set out not only the differencies in their activities but also the areas where they meet or indeed overlap. First I must describe their common problems as well as their close working relationships. In Joachim Kirchner's Lexikon des Buchwesens we have this definition: "Precious books are those books which because they are special treasures have a museum quality" (Vol.II, p.884). Although in principle we cannot agree with the implication that museums of the book are nothing but collections of precious books, the quotation highlights the essential difference between museums of the book and libraries. This difference lies in the fact that the most important task of libraries is to make the richness of books and their contents accessible by lending them to readers.

Museums of the book on the other hand present their collections first of all in the mode usual for museums, i.e. by exhibitions. In their permanent exhibitions they present an outline of history of the book, in the widest historical, social and artistic context. They are not limited to literary development, to the contents of the book, but treat the book as a social product, as a product of material as well as intellectual and artistic activity. Museums of the book must not forget that the book has always been a commodity, albeit a commodity with artistic content and value. It has been subject to all the laws of trade and the book-trade has had an important role not only in the history of the book but in the general economic history as well. Thus museums of the book treat the social aspect of the book, past and present.

Like other museums, not even the biggest museum of the book is able to present in its permanent exhibitions all aspects of this major theme - the history of the book in all its social, technical and artistic aspects. This problem may and should be dealt through special exhibitions. In these exhibitions it is possible to present in greater detail important aspects of the history of the book and the book-arts that can be only touched on in permanent exhibitions. Further, special exhibitions give us the opportunity to present rare and precious books that have to be preserved in strong rooms and can only be presented in permanent exhibitions in the form of reproductions or facsimiles. Special exhibitions provide the most important link between the museum and its visitors. They form the public image of the museum, its popularity, and they secure attendance. In exhibitions museums of the book touch, or overlap with, the activities of libraries. Libraries also mount exhibitions from their collections, some of them regularly and with a definite programme and theme. The difference lies in the fact that for libraries this is a supplementary activity, whereas for museums of the book it one of their main tasks.

Among other main tasks of museums of the book is research, directed in the first instance to the history of the book. Bibliography (Buchkunde), as the research discipline concerning the history of the book in the widest sense of the word, has been and will remain the domain of librarians, despite the important contributions from other disciplines and despite participation by specialists in other disciplines. This is mainly due to the fact that it is librarians who work with books everyday and who know books best. Most members of the staff of museums of the book are trained librarians and employ library methods. The problems and methods of museums of the book most resemble those of libraries with collections known as réserves précieuses. In the field of acquisition and cataloguing the methods are if not identical then very similar. There are common problems of security, conservation and restoration of books

and insurance. Research into the collections, questions of reprography, the making of facsimiles in order to preserve originals, all these are problems common to libraries and Museums of the book.

Given the existence of these common problems, which I have been able merely to touch on in the limited scope of this paper, I suggest that museums of the book and libraries need to have an organization to enable them to conduct a close exchange of experiences and working methods on a broad international basis. The advantages of such cooperation between museums of the book and libraries was shown at an international conference of specialists from both spheres that took place in Czechoslovakia in 1977 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Museum of the Book. For this occasion the National Museum Library in Prague, which founded and administers this Museum, invited foreign and Czechoslovak specialists to discuss problems common to museums of the book and libraries. A number of papers were given reporting results of research and practical experience of the great importance for libraries as well as for museums of the book. The most important of them were published in Acta Musei Nationalis Pragae, Series C, Vol. XXII, 1977, num.1-3 and have been made widely accessible to specialists. It was during this conference that a proposal for international cooperation in this field within the framework of IFLA and (for museums) ICOM was made. At the suggestion of the foreign participants the Czechoslovak specialists have pursued this proposal. The result of this effort, supported by many foreign colleagues, has been a recommendation delivered through our national authorities to IFLA, especially to this 1982 Congress. We recommend the establishment of a Working Group with the Section of Rare and Precious Books and Documents in order to discuss the common problems of museums of the book and libraries. Also this year, a second conference was held at the Czechoslovak Museum of the Book at Zdar nad Sazavou, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its foundation. Here foreign and Czechoslovak specialists discussed further the

problems of common tasks and aims. This conference too acknowledged the necessity of international cooperation in the field and recommended the establishment of a Working Group within the Section of Rare and Precious Books and Documents of IFLA.

I would like to ask you to support this recommendation and to invite your future cooperation in the matter.

R E S O L U T I O N

of the Conference on the Problems of Museums
of the Book and their Role in the Modern World

As a result of the growing importance of the book (which UNESCO has encouraged) the pedagogical, educational and research tasks of museums of the book are increasing constantly.

Those participating in the Conference on Museums of the Book at Zdar believe that close cooperation and international exchange of experience between specialists in museums of the book are of great importance. We must assume that the responsibilities of museums of the book for the conservation, presentation and propagation of the world cultural heritage will expand considerably. With the growing emphasis on external activities there will be more points of contact with libraries, literary and technological museums as well as with museums of decorative arts.

By establishing a section for literary museums ICOM has demonstrated its readiness to devote attention to serious questions arising within its international sphere of responsibility. Those participating in the Conference request their Czechoslovak colleagues and hosts to take the action necessary to establish in ICOM a subsection for Museums of the Book, Paper and Writing. Further: those participating in the Conference request their Czechoslovak hosts to continue efforts to establish (a Round Table) for Museums of the Book in the Section of Rare and Precious Books and Documents of IFLA.

réseaux
48e conférence générale de l'IFLA – Montréal
22-28 août 1982
Fédération internationale des associations
de bibliothécaires et des bibliothèques

networks
48th IFLA General Conference – Montréal
August 22-28, 1982
International Federation of Library
Associations and Institutions

1982

45/RARE/3-E
198-CS

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE MONTREAL 1982

Division: Collections and Services

Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents

The Union Catalogue of Incunabula (GW) and collections of incunabula in libraries worldwide

by

Ursula ALTMANN
Departmental Chief
at the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek
Berlin/GDR

198

Incunabula, documents from the early history of printing and part of the cultural heritage of the history of mankind, are kept in some 4,000 libraries of the world. The bibliographical description of these 15th century printings is presented in the GW (Union Catalogue of Incunabula) published by the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek (German State Library), Berlin/GDR.

In connection with World War II, at the heading Federicis, the printing of the GW had to be discontinued after the first part of volume 8 had appeared in 1940. For the resumption and continuation of work the international co-operation of all libraries owning incunabula was a fundamental pre-requisite.

The following report is a brief description of international co-operation in incunabula research. It is partly based on the Actes du Conseil de la FIAB (Publications, vols. 24 - 31, 1960 - 1967) and at the same time a modest contribution to an account of the successful activities of the present IFLA Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents for the promotion of international incunabula research during the past 23 years.

At the conference of incunabula librarians of socialist countries in Berlin/GDR in August 1959, ways and means for future international contribution to the GW were agreed for the first time. Reports on the state of cataloguing in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Rumania informed about the extent of losses and the changes caused by the war with regard to incunabula holdings. Incunabula researchers at the Budapest National Library, Prague State Library and Warsaw National Library agreed to co-operate in the GW as representatives of their countries. In the resolution of this first international conference on

the continuation of the GW the librarians present invited all countries of the world owning incunabula to resume their co-operation in the GW.

In the very same year, at the 25th IFLA Council Meeting in Warsaw in 1959, the German State Library presented a report to the Committee on Rare and Precious Books on the state of the original manuscript and the requirements for resuming the printing of the GW. It made known its ideas of organizing international co-operation and submitted a plan for editorial work. The Committee took up the initiative of the German State Library. In the resolutions of 15 September 1959 the Committee recommended: Each country owning incunabula should prepare an account of the present state of incunabula research and its publications in this field and, moreover, name a representative to make a list of incunabula experts of the country. The German State Library should submit a report on the continuation of the GW. Moreover, it was recommended that UNESCO grant scholarships for incunabula experts.

The German State Library forwarded its report to the Chairman and the Secretary of the Committee on Rare and Precious Books and to IFLA's President. IFLA headquarters also got reports and comments from other countries and lists of experts from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Italy, Yugoslavia and Spain. This was the basis for discussions on problems of work on the GW of those attending the meeting of the Committee on Rare and Precious Books at the 26th IFLA Council Meeting in Lund in 1960. The following problem was included: The incunabula are kept in different countries, but they must be examined by means of autopsy for registration in the GW, and

possibly at a central place. It was recommended to create a working group to study the best way of international co-operation, and a conference of incunabula experts was considered desirable. Both projects were not executed for the time being.

However, at the 27th IFLA Council Meeting in Edinburgh in 1961 a special meeting on the GW was held within the framework of the Committee on Rare and Precious Books under the chairmanships of Sir Frank Francis. The account of the Berlin editors of the GW was followed by the motion that IFLA recommend to all libraries owning incunabula co-operation in the GW and set up a Committee representing the most important countries owning incunabula.

Interest in continuing the printing of the GW was great. There was full accord in that work on the GW could only be done with the support of librarians in many countries of the world. For the present, however, there was no common consent with regard to the most appropriate way of co-operation, because the extent of work required was not sufficiently known. Therefore the special meeting on the GW in Edinburgh in 1961 suggested the following procedure: A coherent part of the original manuscript should be sent to suitable libraries for a comparison of the entries with their copies of incunabula. After that the experts could discuss the suitability of this method of making the GW manuscript ready for the press.

As a result, the German State Library dispatched photocopies of two different parts of the manuscript to libraries with large holdings of incunabula in January 1962. For this purpose it picked out the segment "Formulare" showing the manuscript in a

comparatively progressed stage of preparation. The other segment, "Medici-Meffreth", contained descriptions of incunabula of a different quality and demonstrated the work still to be done for these parts of the GW manuscript. The two parts of the manuscripts were sent to libraries in Brussels, Budapest, Copenhague, The Hague, Jerusalem, Leningrad, Ljubljana, London, Munich, New York, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Uppsala, Vienna, Warsaw and Washington. The action resulted in a wealth of useful suggestions for the organization of work of the GW editors as well as for the necessary improvements in detail and the correction of certain parts of the GW manuscript. The impact of these activities on the libraries owning incunabula became very important for future co-operation in the GW; librarians from many countries took an interest in the solution of the difficult problems.

The next special meeting on the GW at the 28th IFLA Council Meeting in Berne in 1962 was attended by 43 representatives from 17 countries. Professor Kunze, Director-General of the German State Library, informed about the results of the experiment. Suggestions for publishing the manuscript in its present state, either on microfilm or as a short-title list, could not be accepted for practical reasons owing to the inadequacy of the manuscript and the urgency to avoid any delay in the resumption of printing the GW. The suggestion of printing the first part of volume 8 of the GW anew was accepted, and also the advice to start the printing with the "Instruction for the detailed description of incunabula" and a new list of abbreviations in order to make known the changes in respect to the method of description since volume 6 of the GW.

Practical experience of the GW editors had shown: Libraries owning incunabula were willing to actively co-operate, and incunabula researchers had offered to assist in dealing with special groups of incunabula. The time had now come for direct contacts, but there had been still some difficulties in the course of co-operation for many years.

During the 29th IFLA Council Meeting in Sofia 1963 the German State Library at a special meeting on the continuation of the GW made some practical suggestions for certain tasks to be accepted by individual libraries. It draw up a list of 22 small segments (between "Ferdinand" and "Fiore di virtû") next to be prepared for the GW, and specified the libraries or countries with a concentration of the majority of editions. It described the required working processes and promised to hand over the working documents. This attempt to put the activities for the publication of the GW on a broad international basis - repeatedly desired at the past IFLA meetings - failed. Among the libraries specified not a single one was able to take over such an obligation in addition to its own functions. However, the list of incunabula experts corresponding with the GW was of a satisfactory length and comprised the names of librarians in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Rumania, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. Those present in Sofia suggested that libraries owning incunabula should allocate an annual amount of $ 30 (39 roubles) for the production of photocopies and microfilms for the GW. The German State Library was and is willing to offer in exchange films of incunabula or manuscripts

or publications of the GDR publishing houses. The libraries in Budapest, Prague and Warsaw at once agreed to this recommendation. In the meantime many libraries in countries which are in continuous contact with the GW editors have supplied the required working material free of charge, but the sum allotted by the German State Library for providing microfilms or xerox copies for the GW per year is still very high.

In the following years the German State Library reported on progress of work on the GW either at the special meetings on the GW or to the President of IFLA directly. It also agreed to provide a basis for the publication of a short-title list to be prepared by a special group on the basis of the GW manuscript and financed from national or international funds. The results of these IFLA meetings on the incunabula activities at first were not as clearly visible as the impulses which emanated from the 1961 meeting and the examination of the parts of the GW manuscript dispatched to 19 libraries.

The German State Library readily took up the suggestion to start printing the GW with a revised reprint of the first part of volume 8. It regarded this as a method to practically start international co-operation parallel with the theoretical discussions at the IFLA meetings and to test and extend it step by step.

The activities for the revised reprint were started with the dispatch of questionnaires to all libraries, archives, museums, cloisters, and schools from whose collections copies were contained in the first impression of part 8,1 (1940); with the exception of those countries for which printed union catalogues were already available, viz. Belgium, Italy, USA and Canada,

Lotte and Wytze Hellinga can be quoted who did not want to miss the notes of the GW in their work on "The fifteenth-century Printing Types of the Low Countries", and the Belgian Franciscan friars P. Coenen, P. Mees and P. Ooms who utilized the manuscript for the "Bio-Bibliographia Franciscana Neerlandica". But the editors of the GW, in many cases, also supported actively and effectively the work of individual researchers and the cataloguing of incunabula of certain libraries by giving detailed information. Moreover, by establishing the "Beiträge zur Inkunabelkunde, 3. Folge" (Contributions to Incunabula Research, 3rd series) the German State Library offered to incunabula researchers worldwide the possibility of publishing the results of their work. This very year volume 8 of the "Beiträge" will come out and contributions by researchers from Belgium, Brazil, the Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR, Italy, Yugoslavia, and the USSR will be published. This publication also offers a chance to the incunabula librarians of such countries as have little opportunity of having their results printed.

The repeated discussions on the GW on the occasion of the IFLA Council Meetings from 1959 to 1964, and again 1966 and 1968, then again since 1971, were devoted to the different problems of international co-operation. They concerned the conception of continuing the GW, attempted to clear up the practicality of carrying through work at a central point, viz. the editors at the German State Library Berlin/GDR. The question whether the creation of several working centres would be necessary was examined, the necessity of extending the editorial staff in Berlin by creating international jobs (scholarships, fellowships) was underlined, an attempt was made to secure financial support

and such libraries as had published catalogues of incunabula. Also Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland could be left out of account, since in these countries union catalogues were already in the making which have been published in the meantime. In 1964 542 questionnaires were dispatched to libraries in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the USSR. All in all 2,657 copies of incunabula were inquired into through 727 titles and 1,930 bibliographical references. 483 libraries, more than 88 per cent, answered the questions. The continuation of the GW was everywhere welcomed with pleasure. Such inquiries for the confirmation of the location of old copies possibly no more correct, are dispatched in connection with work on each further part of the GW, unless printed catalogues of incunabula or preliminary lists placed at the disposal of the GW editors, give information about the latest state. For this reason the GW editors are very grateful for every new catalogue of incunabula because it reduces the volume of work.

The inquiries about the collections of incunabula existing at present were a supplementation to the first action and provided the basis for a new register of the libraries owning incunabula. Lists of the collections of incunabula known to us were sent to the national libraries of various countries with the request for examination and correction. On this occasion information about the whereabouts of smaller dissolved collections and important collections not yet known to us were asked for. Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the Soviet Union and Switzerland were asked to co-operate in these investigations. The inquiries applied

to 1,028 collections of incunabula in 603 places. Not all national libraries were able to carry out these investigations for the GW. The additional efforts of the GW editors were not always successful; therefore, in the new register of collections of incunabula published in 1972 some libraries are specified which do not own incunabula today. On this occasion express thanks are due to all libraries and institutions which supported the activities of the GW editors regarding these first steps, and particularly to the incunabula librarians in Budapest, Prague and Warsaw who gave comprehensive information about the incunabula owned by their countries.

At this time the GW editors have very good contacts with the national libraries of the countries owning incunabula. Today these national libraries function as centres of incunabula activities and support the GW editors in various ways, especially also in those cases in which direct contacts with a smaller library of the respective country failed to materialize. In this way it was possible to set up a solid network of connections to guarantee international work on the GW. These institutional connections were supplemented by various personal and individual relations which proved to be of great benefit to both the GW and the incunabula researchers. Incunabula specialists from the National Library and the University Library in Budapest and the University Library in Bratislava respectively co-operated with the GW editors in Berlin for several months and thus promoted the printing of the GW as well as work on their own catalogues of incunabula. Researchers used the manuscript and other working documents of the GW for their investigations and in return informed about the results of their work. As outstanding examples

for the GW from international funds. Part of these efforts was unsuccessful. Up to now we have not succeeded in reinforcing the GW editors by foreign experts paid from international funds. But due to an intervention of the IFLA Council Meeting in Grenoble in 1973 the GW editors received a non-recurring sum of $ 2,000 from Unesco in 1974 to pay for microfilms and photocopies. This was a considerable help for which we are very grateful, but altogether only a small contribution to the high costs of work on the GW which have been borne solely by the German State Library already for decades.

A result of the efforts for years was the creation of an international Working Party for work on the GW. It was agreed at the 45th IFLA Council Meeting in Copenhagen in 1979 and realized at the International Expert Meeting on Problems of Work on the GW organized by the German State Library in November 1979 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the beginning of work on the GW. The Chairman of the Working Party is Doctor R. Julian Roberts to whom the editors of the GW are much obliged for all the trouble he has taken and his activities to the benefit of the GW. Thanks are also due to the members of the Working Party, the representatives from Austria, Czecoslovakia, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the USSR, the Netherlands, the USA, and for their willingness to co-operate.

Two more essential results of the activities of the Section on Rare and Precious Books and Documents must be quoted:
Librarians and uncunabula researchers all over the world have become more and nore interested in progress of the GW;

librarians and research workers to whom the editors apply, answer the questions and supply working documents, some of them free of charge. The revival of work with incunabula is the second welcome result. The catalogues of incunabula of individual collections or of entire countries published in the meantime, testify to the awareness of the necessity of cataloguing, preserving and informing on the incunabula as part of the world's cultural heritage. At the same time all these catalogues actively support work on the GW. Therefore the GW editors have the following request:

1. The libraries should send their catalogues of incunabula to the GW editors right after publication free of charge.
2. Incunabula researchers should supply the GW editors with off-prints of the published results of their work.

The GW editors consider these documents a contribution to co-operation and gladly thank all those who supplied their publications already.

Increased co-operation of the libraries is required for reading the proofs of the GW. The GW editors have started to dispatch individual galley proofs to those libraries whose incunabula are described in the respective part. In doing so it secured the correct description in problematic cases and thanks all libraries which returned their corrections quickly. For the completeness of the GW it would be useful, if the libraries with large incunabula collections could read the proofs of all descriptions of a part. This is a heavy burden on these libraries and might delay the publication of a part. In order to avoid

delays the GW editors have therefore deferred the circulation of galley proofs to the most important collections of incunabula of the world, for the time being. However, the GW editors are always in a position to send proofs to such libraries as are prepared for this method of an enlarged co-operation.

In the meantime work on the further printing of the GW has continuously progressed. The extent of the joint efforts is illustrated by the following figures: In 1981 the GW editors addressed 460 questions to libraries in 20 countries 82 per cent of which were answered. During the first five months of 1982 255 questions were addressed to libraries in 22 countries; by the end of May some 50 per cent of them have been answered. The GW editors endeavoured to return this support by answering the questions of 109 libraries and 59 incunabula researchers from 13 countries in 1981, and questions of 61 libraries and 38 research workers from 16 countries by the end of May in 1982.

The inquiries of the GW served different stages of four new parts. The state of affairs is as follows: The manuscript of the 2nd part of volume 9 (Gabelle - Gerp) has been handed over to the publishers. As regards the 3rd part (Gerson, Gert - Graffeo) the bibliographical and the typographical preparations are drawing to a close, the scientific and literary preparations are going to be started. As regards the 4th part (Grammatika) the bibliographical and typographical investigations have been started, the scientific preparations have been launched. The published 1st part of volume 9 (Fogeda - Friedrich III.) is herewith presented.